



**SAINT IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1963**

The Ridley Press (St. Ives) Ltd.
St. Ives & Cambridge.

LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham

Broughton

Bury

Colne

Earith

Fenstanton

Hemingford Abbots

Hemingford Grey

Hilton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Houghton and Wyton

Oldhurst

Pidley-cum-Fenton

Somersham

Warboys

Wistow

Woodhurst

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

D. B. WRIGHT, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

H. E. PARREN, ESQ.

Members of the Council:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	Mrs. C. A. Gowlett
H. G. W. Anderson, Esq.	J. W. Harris, Esq.
Mrs. M. Banks	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	M. F. Newman, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
R. W. Giddins, Esq.	Revd. N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
R. A. Wright, Esq., O.B.E.	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

G. A. EARL, ESQ., C.A.

Vice-Chairman:

R. A. WRIGHT, ESQ., O.B.E.

Members:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
Mrs. M. Banks	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	H. E. Parren, Esq.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
Mrs. C. A. Gowlett	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
J. W. Harris, Esq.	Revd. N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
D. B. Wright, Esq., J.P.	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

B. Schofield, M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st December, 1963

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1963.

An increase of almost a thousand in the population figure for this year is a pleasing feature to note in contrast to a decrease of the same number which occurred in 1962.

The Birth Rate shows a fractional decrease and the Death Rate a fractional increase over last year's figures but both rates are practically level with the figures for England and Wales as a whole.

During the year an outbreak of Paratyphoid occurred in the district and resulted in 11 notifications being received. Steps were quickly taken to locate the origin of the infection while the cases were isolated and the contacts supervised. In due course the outbreak was attributed to the use of an imported egg product used extensively in the catering industry. Close contact was maintained with the Infectious Disease Hospital, the family doctors and the Public Health Laboratory Service until the cases recovered and were found to be free of infection. As similar outbreaks, attributable to the same source of infection, occurred in other parts of the County about the same time steps were taken by the Ministry of Health to require that liquid egg be pasteurised before use by the catering industry.

The Council has ceased to supply and distribute water throughout the district its functions now having been transferred to the Nene and Ouse Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company. The Nene and Ouse Board are taking active steps to improve the quantity of water

available by means of the Brampton Intake which scheme involves the extraction and purification of water taken from the river Great Ouse. The Council did agree to support the application of the Huntingdon County Council for the fluoridation of the water supplied by the Cambridge Company and the Joint Board but no action had been taken by the end of the year.

The Sewerage Scheme for Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords was completed by the end of the year and when in full operation will greatly improve the amenities of these riverside villages. Active steps are still being taken by the Council to accelerate similar schemes and it is hoped that Needingworth, Bury, Warboys and Fenstanton will follow in quick succession. Plans are also being prepared for Colne, Bluntisham and Earith and the smaller villages throughout the district.

There has been no slackening in the number of houses being erected in the district and in addition the Council decided to erect a block of 20 flatlets at Somersham. The scheme envisages provision of communal services and a contribution in respect of these services will be given by the County Council.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year and all the Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,
J. CALDWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA**

General Statistics

Population (mid. 1962)	...	...	...	15,570
Population (mid. 1963)	...	...	...	16,510
Area (acres)	...	...	...	45,911
Rateable value	...	...	...	£399,665
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£2,030
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,678

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M.	F.	Total	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.3
Legitimate	139	146	285	Comparability Factor	.96
Illegitimate	7	10	17	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.6
Total	146	156	302	(ditto for England and Wales)	18.2
Still Births				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	13.1
Legitimate	2	2	4	(ditto for England and Wales)	17.3
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	8.3
Total	2	2	4	Comparability Factor	1.2
Deaths				Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	9.9
All ages	75	62	137	(ditto for England and Wales)	12.2

The following table indicates the trends in the Birth and Death Rate for the district over the past five years and compares them with those for the County of Huntingdon and for England and Wales.

BIRTH RATE	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	18.5	19.9	18.3	19.9	17.6
County of Huntingdon	19.6	19.7	20.6	21.6	20.1
England and Wales ..	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2
DEATH RATE					
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	9.8	8.8	8.9	9.4	9.9
County of Huntingdon	10.1	10.6	10.1	10.4	11.3
England and Wales ..	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9	12.2
Deaths of infants under 1 year			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	...	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—
Total			5	1	6

Death Rates of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live Births ...	...	19.9
(ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	20.9

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
Total							147
							—

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1963 ... 44
Pulmonary ... 36 Non-pulmonary ... 8

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	I	I	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals				I	I	2	2	I	2	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CAUSES OF DEATH
(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, other	0	1
2	Meningococcal infections	1	0
3	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	3
4	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	0
5	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
6	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
7	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	2	8
8	Diabetes	2	0
9	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	12
10	Coronary disease, angina	13	3
11	Hypertension with heart disease	2	0
12	Other heart disease	10	16
13	Other circulatory diseases	4	5
14	Pneumonia	5	2
15	Bronchitis	7	2
16	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
17	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
18	Gastritis, enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0
19	Hyperpalsia of prostate	1	0
20	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5
21	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
22	All other accidents	4	2
Total all causes ...		75	62

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home nursing and attended maternity cases.

(i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.

(ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Bluntisham, Earith, Somersham and Pidley.

(iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.

(iv) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.

(v) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2321) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister) 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Skin, Obstetrical, Pædiatric, Gynæcological and Dental Out-patients' clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services.**

Fever. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the Council
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-sixth Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health and Housing Departments.

The steady growth in the district in the past two decades together with the increased responsibilities imposed on the Council in the fields of Housing, Food, Public Health and Environmental Hygiene by the spate of legislation in the post-war period, shows no sign of slackening.

Unfortunately some difficulties were experienced during the year due to staff changes and the comparatively small outbreak of Paratyphoid with eleven notifications, placed a

heavy strain on the Department, and over 200 additional visits were made to obtain information from suspected cases and to collect daily specimens from families under observation before and after discharge from Hospital.

These specimens, after collection, had to be taken to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge for examination.

It was not possible to carry out all the inspections considered desirable, to catering establishments and retail food shops, but whenever inspections were carried out every effort was made to secure the co-operation of the occupiers in the hygienic handling of perishable foods, and the prevention of contamination.

The administration work in the Department reflects the increasing tempo of the Council's activities, but due to the wide variety of problems presented for solution it can truly be said that as far as the Public Health Department is concerned, purgatorial monotony is a thing unknown.

Finally, I would like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and assistance during the year.

I am, Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) Water

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

The Nene and Ouse Board intend to improve the supply to the Hemingfords' by either the provision of a new main to these villages from Houghton or from the projected new source being sought by the Cambridge Water Company at

London Road, Hemingford Grey. This source is within the Boards area and they have negotiated an agreement for a bulk supply from the Company if the project should materialise.

An adequate supply of water from both supplies is essential for the continued expansion of the district which is proceeding at an ever increasing tempo.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No flouride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated flouridation.

The Cambridge Water Company are unable to separate the water supplied to Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire and the latter Authority is opposed to this principle.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board still have the subject under consideration.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

Ten samples of water were taken from private supplies during the year; all of these were from shallow wells serving isolated properties; none were satisfactory and the occupiers were advised to boil all water for drinking and domestic purposes.

1. (2) Drainage and Sewerage

The main drainage scheme for Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton was completed in October, and house connections to the new sewers proceeded as fast as local contractors could undertake the work.

The disposal works for this scheme is sited at Hemingford Abbots and consists of Sedimentation Tanks, primary and secondary sludge digestion tanks, humus tanks, sludge drying beds, 4 percolating filters and auxilliary equipment.

It is designed to deal with a maximum flow of 350,000 gallons per day.

Nine pumping stations were erected on the 12 miles of sewers.

The pumping station on the Council's Housing Estate at Old Pound Close, Hemingford Grey, serving 85 houses, was adapted to deliver sewage from the estate to the new line of sewer.

The Small Disposal Works built to serve this estate is being demolished and a smaller pump and settlement tank serving 12 council houses at St. Ives Road, Hemingford Grey has also been dismantled.

In respect of this scheme the Council decided to take advantage of the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, whereby it can, in certain circumstances, recover payments from the owners of those premises constructed and connected to the new sewers after their completion.

The necessary resolutions being published in the local newspapers.

More progress was made in the other main drainage schemes for the district:-

BURY : Although this scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry and the Council has been authorised to advertise for tenders, it will not be possible to proceed until the Ramsey U.D.C. Sewage Disposal Works have been enlarged.

HOLYWELL-cum-NEEDINGWORTH : All the preliminary work in connection with this scheme was completed during the year and Ministry approval to proceed to tender was dependant on some slight revisions being made to the design of the sewers and disposal works to provide for the increasing population in the village.

WARBOYS : Preliminary surveys of the Parish were completed during the year and the Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to proceed with the scheme. Ultimately this scheme will also provide for the main drainage of Broughton and Oldhurst.

FENSTANTON : Further consideration has been given to this scheme, which is also in course of preparation, and it now appears that a joint scheme for Fenstanton and Hilton, with one disposal works to serve the two villages, would be more economical and the designs are being based on this idea.

No work has been carried out on the schemes for the remaining villages and undoubtedly development in Colne, Bluntisham and Earith will be restricted until main drainage is available.

The small disposal works constructed on various council house estates were maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year.

2. Rivers and Streams

The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

No serious flooding occurred during the year, but the Hemingfords' will remain vulnerable to a flood reaching the 1947 level unless a similar flood protection scheme to that provided at Houghton and Wyton is constructed.

It is understood that the River Board is still considering the implementation of such a scheme.

The amenities of the River are enjoyed by an increasing number of people every year; coachloads of anglers, mainly from the Midlands, line the banks at week-ends, while an enjoyable and restful holiday cruising on the river is appreciated by many more.

The County Planning Authority have foreseen the increasing demand for recreational facilities on the pleasant reaches in St. Ives Rural District and indeed in other districts, and it has issued a draft report on such facilities. The object of the report is to endeavour to make the best use of the river for recreational purposes without destroying its fundamental attraction. It seeks therefore to control the development of Camping Sites, Chalets, Boating facilities, and picnic areas.

It is improbable that any official bathing stations could be established in the near future owing to the degree of pollution, but many people do bathe and unfortunately, fatalities due to drowning occur from time to time.

Awarded Watercourses in the area, some of which are comparatively large, are maintained by the Council as successors to the Surveyor of Highways and a substantial mileage of such brooks was cleansed during the year.

There was no improvement in the effluent discharged into Parsons Drove Brook from both a Sewage Disposal Works and Industrial Premises situated in St. Ives Borough, and it is unlikely that there will be any major improvement until the Borough's main drainage scheme comes into operation in 1965-66.

3. (1) Closet Conversions

As in the past four years the conversion of pail to water lavatories has been confined to houses improved by means of a Discretionary or a Standard Grant. It is the policy of the Council to pay up to 50% of the cost of expenses reasonably incurred in effecting such conversions, and it is anticipated that a number of applications for conversion grants will be received in 1964 consequent on the completion of the main drainage scheme for the Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton.

3. (2) Public Cleansing

(a) Night-soil Collection

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out throughout the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 970 pails were emptied each week.

The areas of land available for disposal are limited and even these areas are inaccessible during the winter months. The answer of course is main drainage. Meanwhile stop gap methods by the provision of straw compounds at Oldhurst Sewage Works continue to be employed. The effluent is drained to the Sludge Drying Bed sump and pumped back very slowly through the works. Similar straw compounds in isolated positions have been provided by local Farmers, but as a rule these are inaccessible to the heavy tanker for many months of the year.

Saint Ives Borough Council terminated its contract with the Council for the bi-weekly collection of night-soil from the Borough, but a contract with Huntingdon Borough Council for a weekly collection from that town continued during the year as it still has some properties that cannot be connected to the sewers.

(b) Cesspool Emptying

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied during the year was 1,203.

With the development now proceeding in other villages without main drainage, the reduction in the number in the Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton, consequent on the completion of that scheme will be offset and the service will still be very necessary for many years.

With this service too, the difficulty lies, not in the collection, but in the disposal of the vast volumes of sewage and sludge that no one wants and few can be persuaded to take.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered from the time they were first fixed in 1950, namely 25/- for each 700 gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying.

In addition, the service is made available to private individuals in adjacent districts at a higher charge.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

Three vehicles are used for the collection, two diesel driven 'duel-tips' of 15 cubic yards capacity, and one 22 cubic yard compression type vehicle fitted with hydraulic rams.

Each vehicle is normally manned by two driver loaders, an additional loader being available when the daily schedule necessitates some assistance.

The refuse is tipped at two worked-out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey, where the refuse is spread and levelled with a Bulldozer.

Complaints of nuisance from flies and smoke at the Somersham Tip were reduced by exercising strict control on the persons having access to the tip, but on several occasions fires were started by children. On discovering the names of children responsible, they were visited at their homes together with a Police Officer and warned that further offences of this nature would be followed by action in the Juvenile Courts.

The search for suitable alternative tipping sites continued, as it appeared that insuperable difficulties in regard to access would prevent the Council purchasing the Old Brickworks between Somersham and Pidley.

A number of possible alternatives were being considered at the end of the year, but no definite decision had been reached.

In addition to the normal house refuse collection, contract work for additional collections of house refuse and trade refuse was undertaken at Royal Air Force Stations situated in the district.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council, a weekly kerbside collection of house refuse is carried out at Saint Ives. Trade Refuse is also collected from non-domestic premises in the Borough and the Rural District. Tipping facilities are available for which a small charge is made.

Litter Receptacles

An increasing number of Parish Councils are providing litter bins at suitable points and in co-operation with the County Planning Authority and suggestions as to the best type of receptacles to be provided are given to the Parish Councils.

The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in hot weather they can give rise to nuisance, when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake this work.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area

(a) Housing Inspections :

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	149
Re-Inspections	...	...	55
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	40
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	31
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	—

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	5	7	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	42	24	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	47	31	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Inspections under Regulations, etc.

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	62
Dumps, Tips	...	...	...	...	...	169
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	78
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	81
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	46
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	20
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	111
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	342
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	254
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	305
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	8
Meat from outside District	...	...	...	...	...	14
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	64
After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	237
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	5
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	7
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	93
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	178
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	149
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	350
Conversion Grants	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	53
TOTAL						<hr/> 2,648 <hr/>

As a result of the inspections recorded above, several informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

A number of complaints from noise and smell arising from Broiler Houses sited in residential areas were received, but no satisfactory solution had been found to this problem.

3. (4) Caravan Sites

Since the commencement of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the Council has approved standard conditions applicable to all licensed caravan sites.

These standards broadly follow the Ministry's recommendations and, as such, the licensing conditions vary according to the number of caravans on each site.

During the year, eight new applications for licences were granted by the Council. This brings the total number of licensed sites in the district to 32. Of these only 3 contain more than 20 caravans whilst 21 of the sites are licensed for one caravan only.

The County Council did not make any discontinuance orders in respect of any sites in the district.

Several itinerant van dwellers station their vans in the district, the majority of whom are employed as casual workers in Agriculture and Horticulture.

3. (5) Swimming Baths

The Joint Committee appointed by Saint Ives Borough and the Rural District Councils acquired a 5 acre site in Saint Ives between Ramsey Road and Pig Lane. Consulting Engineers have made test borings of the subsoil on the site and have been instructed to submit suitable designs to the Joint Committee.

Two County Primary Schools in the district have now been provided with plastic pools. Circulating Pumps are used to assist in the effective chlorination of the water.

Regular sampling is carried out by the staff at the schools to ensure that an adequate level of free chlorine is maintained.

Eight check samples, all of which were satisfactory were taken by the Department during the year.

3. (6) Rodent Control

The Council does not employ any Rodent Operators. However, the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff has been trained in Rodent Control and deals with minor infestations.

Block disinfestations are carried out where necessary, the service of an Operator being made available by an adjoining Local Authority; one such operation was carried out in the centre of Earith during the year.

The Council issue suitable pre-packed cartons containing Warfarin to householders on request free of charge and many occupiers have taken advantage of this service.

Regular disinfestation of the Council's refuse tips was also carried out; warfarin and phosphides being found the most effective baits.

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance

The following table shows the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance programme up to the end of the year:-

Number of houses represented as Unfit:-

(a) Clearance Areas	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses	227
Number dealt with by informal action	5
	<hr/>
Total	262
	<hr/>

Number of houses included in Clearance Order	30
Number of Demolition Orders made	96
Number of Closing Orders made	2
Number of houses demolished as result of informal action	10
Number of Undertakings accepted	122
Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	1
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	1
	<hr/>
	262
	<hr/>

Number of Houses Demolished:-

(a) In Clearance Areas	30
(b) By Demolition Orders	78
(c) By Informal Action	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings	22
Number of Undertakings cancelled	42
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled	11

A further 16 houses were dealt with under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts in 1963 and the Council's original programme of 326 unfit houses as estimated in 1965 is for all practical purposes completed, a total of 262 houses having been represented as unfit.

The difference between the estimate and the number represented is accounted for by the fact that some houses were demolished by the owners before formal action could be taken and the remainder have been reconditioned and renovated by the owners, who have, with few exceptions, obtained an Improvement Grant for this purpose.

Meanwhile, although the general standard of housing in the district has improved considerably in the last decade, some cottages continually slip towards decay and it is anticipated that a number of these will be represented next year. In some cases the value of the site has a vital bearing on this problem, demolition orders in such cases are rarely resisted, the capital value of a cleared site obviously being a far greater attraction than the small income derived from controlled rents.

(b) General

As further private houses are erected it is becoming clear that the pressure for accommodation in Council Houses is decreasing.

It is true that the number of applicants for accommodation is increasing each year, but the really needy cases are being housed much more quickly and the vacancies arising in the Council's existing houses are almost sufficient to rehouse those who are in urgent need.

However, the population of the district is steadily increasing and the Council, as the Housing Authority, is giving careful consideration as to how best it can meet the general need for further dwellings within the district both for young couples and those elderly persons who require more compact and comfortable homes.

With this in mind the Council decided to erect 20 small flats at Somersham, for elderly but not infirm persons, with communal services such as central heating, hot water, laundry, bathrooms, etc. which will be completed in 1964.

Furthermore, it commenced negotiations for the purchase of land in several villages with the object of stimulating development to meet the needs of other families who are anxious to live in the district.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

					Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	63	17
1956	...	...	...	...	15	36
1957	...	...	...	...	25	43
1958	...	...	...	...	21	41
1959	...	...	...	...	29	76
1960	...	...	...	...	19	62
1961	...	...	...	...	26	43
1962	...	...	...	...	20	75
1963	...	...	...	...	8	108
					<hr/> 640 <hr/>	<hr/> 651 <hr/>

The total number of inhabited houses in the area at the end of 1963 was 4,678.

As elsewhere, the zone for residential development is limited, but it is still possible to see that within the framework of the County Planning Authorities Policy for the Rural District, further substantial development can take place.

Housing advances for house purchase

There has been a considerable impetus in the number of advances during 1963; 28 loans having been made amounting to £60,000.

Since the Council introduced its House Purchase Scheme in 1952 a total of 81 advances amounting to approx: £125,000 have been granted.

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,058. All are subject to the Council's Differential Rent Scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a Foreman and 8 men.

Improvement Grants

The number of applications for Improvement Grants in the year increased to 51 of which 50 were granted.

During the year Standard Grants amounting to £2,105 were made in respect of 15 houses, an average of £140 per house; Discretionary Grants amounting to £7,708 in respect of 35 houses, an average of £191 per house.

Since the implementation of the Improvement Grant Scheme by the Council, Grants to the total value of £64,486 have been made to owners in respect of 325 houses, an average of £195 per house.

The Improvement Works to the pre-war council houses were commenced in 1961. The number completed to the end of the year was 120, while work on the remainder was delayed whilst negotiations on the works ranking for grant were proceeding with the Ministry.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Owing to staff difficulties it was not possible to devote as much time as is desirable to the inspection and supervision of the establishments supplying food and drink in the district. Many cases of Food poisoning are often caused by circumstances outside the control of the caterer or the retailer, but constant vigilance is essential and many aspects of food hygiene are reiterated time and again by the Department to persons engaged in food handling.

(a) Milk Supply

A large proportion of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short time pasteurisation plants. Occasionally complaints regarding dirty bottles are received from members of the public, but every possible precaution is taking at the bottling plants to minimise such occurrences.

It is true to say that many householders fail to appreciate the necessity to treat milk bottles for what they are — containers for a food, this in itself is a natural medium for the growth of pathogenic organisms.

This problem could be solved by replacing bottles with non-returnable receptacles, but economic considerations at present preclude this system.

Neither should it be forgotten that considerable additional expense would be incurred by the Council in disposing of such non-returnable containers, all of which would be placed in the dustbins.

Although the Council still have adequate powers to inspect all premises, including dairies, under the General Public Health legislation all the specific regulations, formerly administered by the Council, have now been transferred to other authorities.

As a general rule therefore, no routine visits are made to dairies unless exceptional circumstances warrant an inspection.

This procedure has been adopted to avoid duplication of visits from officers of different local authorities.

(b) Ice Cream

There are no licensed manufacturers in the district; all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well known Firms.

No samples were taken during the year.

(c) Meat and Other Foods

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area.

All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangement with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities the Department assists in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts during holiday periods and in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat, fish and fruit were condemned together with 28lbs. of imported Ox Kidneys, 14 lbs. of imported Lambs Livers, 90 lbs. of Cod Fillets, consigned to school canteens in the district, 2 hindquarters of English Pork and various other foods.

Food Hygiene Regulations

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers	6
Butchers	9
Café's and Canteens	9
Confectioners	1
Fish Shops	5
General Stores	54
Greengrocers	2
Licensed Premises	34

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations but several requests were made to owners to provide the facilities required under the Regulations.

Consultations also proceeded with Breweries regarding the modernisation of some of the licensed premises, which are still sub-standard.

Adulteration

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food & Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

